



# EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

## e-REPORTER

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**Manuel Alexander Haasis**, Project Manager of the Department of Health, National Center for Pharmaceutical Access and Management (left inset) and **Jose A. Cortez**, Vice President of Philippine International Trading Corporation-Pharma (right inset) discuss the reference price of medicines in the Philippines to be used as a guide on EC medical reimbursement during the consultation meeting on ECP medical benefit policy on reimbursement of out of pocket expenses for medicines held at ECC Multipurpose Hall on August 8, 2014.

### ECC helps fisherman regain employment

It was one fine day for a group of fishermen while they were on board a ferry in Palawan. However, the cable of the ferry was stuck in a rock during the sail. Romeo Palay had no choice but to cut the cable otherwise, the vessel will capsize due to strong current. Unfortunately, Palay's hand was hit by a purse line cable which resulted to the amputation of his right hand.

Palay's cousin informed him that he can avail benefits from the Employees' Compensation Program because the incident was work-related. At first, Palay did not believe his cousin but when he found out that his cousin received an artificial finger when it had a work-related accident, he immediately filed EC claims at the Social Security System.

Palay was able to receive from the Employees' Compensation Commission a permanent partial disability pension of P4,186 monthly for 39 months.

In addition, Palay also received from the EC Program free eight sessions of occupational therapy worth P3,200 at the Philippine General Hospital. He was also given by the ECC an artifi-

*Continued on next page*

### ECC taps 16 hospitals to help occupationally-disabled workers

The Employees' Compensation Commission recently forged commitments with 16 various hospitals for a more effective Quick Response Program. With the closer coordination with hospitals, assistance to workers who sustained injuries, contracted sickness or died while performing their duties can now be provided immediately.

Based on the commitments of hospitals, they will provide the ECC with immediate information on emergency admissions and out-patient cases involving workers who sustained injuries or contracted sickness while working.

In turn, the ECC will right away conduct visits to the patients in the hospitals. In this way, the ECC can provide psychosocial counselling, if needed, and facilitate the provision of information to claim EC benefits.

"It is the ECC's mandate to protect the rights of workers and

*Continued on next page*



**ECC Deputy Executive Director Atty. Jonathan T. Villasoto** hands the symbolic check worth P5,000 each to **Occupationally Disabled Workers (ODWs)** who qualified as beneficiaries of the **DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program Kabuhayan Starter Kits** project after signing the **DOLE Kabuhayan Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** held at the ECC Library on August 1, 2014.



## Machine operator bounces back from setback through the help of the ECC

January 29, 2014 was an ordinary working day for Bryan Anthony Cortes. He went to work and started operating the mixing roll machine in a manufacturing company. However, the ordinary day turned into a nightmare for Cortes when his right thumb was caught by the chain of the machine which caused its amputation.

Since it was a work-related incident, Cortes was able to receive rehabilitation services from ECC which consist of eight physical therapy sessions worth P3,200 and a high definition silicone finger worth P30,000.

Right after he got his free artificial finger from the Employees' Compensation Commission, his days returned to regular working days once again. Cortes was able to get his old job back as a machine operator.

"The ECC, as a government agency that provides meaningful and appropriate compensation to workers in the event of work-related contingencies, would like to reach out to all the occupationally-disabled workers to help them improve their lives after the work-related incident," ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis

shared.

Banawis added that ECC understands that it is very hard for workers who were injured from work to recover from a particular unfortunate event in their lives. Hence, the ECC continues to initiate programs for the ODWs to help them improve the quality of their lives.

### ECC helps fisherman...from front page

cial mechanical below elbow right hand prosthesis worth P90,000.

"Masayang-masaya po ang aking pakiramdam dahil magagamit ko na po ang bago kong kamay sa pang araw-araw ko na gawain," (I am so happy because I can now use my hand for my every day task) Palay stated.

Palay also shared that he never thought that the ECC will actually give him an artificial hand. The prosthesis is very useful for him. He is so grateful that there is a government agency willing to help occupationally-disabled workers like him.

Palay is now back in the fishing company and works as a generator operator.

### ECC taps 16...from front page

promote their welfare, thus, we tapped the best hospitals all over the Philippines to provide us with information in case of work-related contingencies," ECC Executive Director Stella Zipagan-Banawis said.

The following hospitals have so far pledged their commitment to the ECC and consequently, to ODWs: AFP Medi-

**"Higit pa sa benepisyong binibigay na serbisyo."**



**Jennifer C. Reyes**, Business Consultant of Business Alliance Consultancy Services shares ideas about Family Entrepreneurship Program to address specific needs of ODWs and their respective families in starting their own small-scale businesses during the Start Your Own Business Enterprises (SYOBE) training held at the ECC Multipurpose Hall on August 5, 2014.

cal Center, Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center, Capitol Medical Center, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, VRP Medical Center, Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Novaliches General Hospital, Ospital Ng Maynila, Philippine Orthopedic Center, Rizal Medical Center, San Juan De Dios Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center (Q.C.), Philippine General Hospital, Quezon City General Hospital, Metropolitan Medical Center and PNP General Hospital.

Banawis added that the ECC continues to negotiate with other hospitals nationwide to make sure that patients with work-connected contingencies can be immediately assisted.

"This initiative is one of the ECC's ways of reaching out to those who need assistance and to the workers who are in their most vulnerable condition. We do not wait for those who are in need to come to us, we go to them," Banawis shared.



ECC Executive Director Stella Z. Banawis (extreme left) shares a light moment with Romeo Palay (2nd from left) a generator operator of RBL Fishing Corporation who lost his hand to an accident while on duty. He was accompanied by ECC Work Contingency Prevention and Rehabilitation Division Chief Dr. Melba Y. Sacro (3rd from left) and ECC Social Welfare Officer Veronica Curimao (extreme right) during a courtesy visit at the ECC on July 24, 2014.

### The ECC Reporter

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